

TOP SECRET

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2 September 1952

File Presidential
nominees

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Becker

SUBJECT: Briefing of Governor Stevenson on Saturday, 30 ^{Aug.} September

The actual time of the briefing was a little under twenty minutes. The Governor asked no substantive questions and made no reference to the maps.

His comments on the briefing paper were most favorable and he remarked that it would be most helpful to him. He made two references to the fact that he was indeed flattered by our coming "all the way from Washington" just to brief him. His other remarks were confined to courteous questions and comments.

We had one slight encounter with the press before entering the Governor's mansion, which I think resulted because (a) there was only one entrance to the Executive Offices, and, (b) several members of the press were there covering a delegation, which was at that time calling on the Governor. The reporters got no comments from us, but Mr. Blair, the Governor's Administrative Assistant, later reported that he confirmed the reporters' guess that we were from CIA.

In my opinion, the briefing went about as smoothly as could have been expected for the first trip.

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As to future briefings, I agreed with Mr. Blair that subsequent appointments should be made at each briefing, since any date beyond a two week period would be extremely tentative. We set the next date at 15 September, "at about the same hour" (2:15 P.M. local time) and Mr. Blair will consider the date firm unless we hear from him. I am to call him on 14 September (at my request) to confirm the date.

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18 August 1952

My dear Governor Stevenson:

In accordance with the President's instructions that I provide you with information on the world situation similar to that which he receives each Friday morning, I suggest that the substance of these briefings in condensed form be bound in a folder, together with a very short summaries of current intelligence estimates, and delivered to you each week or ten days by an officer of this Agency. The reading time should not exceed fifteen minutes.

After you have read and any questions which occur to you have been answered, the officer can return the folder to me, since its contents are of a classified nature which must by law remain in the custody of an officer who is properly cleared for security. While you personally are so cleared, you should not be burdened with the responsibility of securing documents of this nature.

If the above is satisfactory, will you be good enough to have one of your personal assistants make up a tentative schedule of dates and places of delivery that will be convenient to you?

Faithfully,

/s/ Walter B. Smith

His Excellency the Governor
The State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois

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